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13 public, 22 private IPs rated excellent

SHAH ALAM: Thirteen public institutions of higher learning (IPs) and 22 private IPs were rated excellent under the Rating System for Malaysian Higher Education (Setara) 2011.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, when announcing this, said the public IP included Universiti Islam Antarabangsa, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Malaya, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, Universiti Malaysia Perlis, Universiti Putra Malaysia and Universiti Utara Malaysia.

The private IP included the Multimedia University, Universiti Kuala Lumpur, Universiti Teknologi Petronas, Sunway University College, Curtin University of Technology (Sarawak campus), Monash University (Sunway campus), Taylor's University College and Nilai University College.

"No university and university college achieves the distinction rating, which is the highest level in Setara, nor for the satisfactory or weak rating," he told a media conference here Thursday. He said the rating would be used as an input by the ministry in the formulating of policies for higher education.

Mohamed Khaled also announced the star rating to be used as the yardstick for research, development and commercialisation programmes based on the Malaysia Research Assessment Instrument (MyRA).

"Since MyRA was implemented in 2007, this is the first time that the result is announced to the public," he added.

He said a total of 32 universities were evaluated, of which four public universities, comprising Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Malaya, Universiti Putra Malaysia and Universiti Sains Malaysia, received six stars, the highest rating in MyRA. The IP which received five stars are Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi Petronas.

Universiti Islam Antarabangsa and Universiti Teknologi Petronas were also chosen to receive the initiative grant, worth RM5 million, to develop their research programmes. – Bernama